

Claims:

What we claim is:

1. A computer program product, comprising:

5 a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method of delaying an operation, the method comprising:

 requesting that a user input a delay criteria; and

 delaying performance by the computer system of the operation until
10 the delay criteria has been met;

 wherein the operation comprises at least one operation chosen from the group consisting of a print command, an e-mailing distribution, a software installation, a file transfer protocol upload, a web site posting and an internet phone call

15 2. The computer-program product of claim 1, wherein the delay criteria is at least one chosen from the group consisting of a time interval, a set time, and the occurrence of a particular condition.

20 3. The computer-program product of claim 2, wherein the particular condition comprises detection of an idle printer.

 4. The program product medium of claim 2, wherein the particular condition comprises detection of bandwidth availability on a network connection.

25

5. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises printing a document

6. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the delaying step
5 comprises storing the document in a job store.

7. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the job store comprises
at least one item chosen from the group consisting of a printer memory, a
personal computer memory, a spooler, a local area network, a wide area
10 network and an internet storage location.

8. A method for controlling a computer system to perform a delayed operation
comprising:

requesting that a user input a delay criteria; and

15 delaying performance of the operation until the delay criteria has been
met; wherein the operation comprises at least one operation chosen from the
group consisting of a print command, an e-mailing distribution, a software
installation, a file transfer protocol upload, a web site posting and an internet
phone call.

20

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the delay criteria is at least one chosen
from the group consisting of a time interval, a set time and the occurrence of a
particular condition.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the particular condition comprises detection of an idle printer.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the particular condition comprises
5 detection of bandwidth availability on a network connection.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the operation comprises printing a document.

10 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the delaying step comprises storing the document in a job store.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the job store comprises at least one item
from the group consisting of a printer memory, a personal computer memory,
15 a spooler, a local area network, a wide area network and an internet storage location.

15. A computing system comprising:

a processor;

20 a user-programmable delaying device operably connected to the processor;

a storage device operably connected to the processor; and

a printer operably connected to the storage device.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the delaying device can be delayed by a user-programmable time interval.

5 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the delaying device can be delayed until a user-programmable time.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the delaying device can be delayed until the occurrence of a user-programmable condition.

10 19. The system of claim 15, further comprising a job store.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the job store comprises at least one item chosen from the group consisting of a printer memory, a personal computer memory, a spooler, a local area network, a wide area network and an internet storage location.

15